REVISED CONTEMPORARY FICTION CORE LIST

1 - Flannery O’Connor
2 - Thomas Pynchon
3 - Toni Morrison
4 - Tim O’Brien
5 - Donald Barthelme
6 - Kurt Vonnegut
7 - Joseph Heller - *Catch 22*
8 - Alice Munro
9 - Raymond Carver
10 - John Updike
11 - Philip Roth
12 - Norman Mailer - *The Armies of the Night or Executioner’s Song*
13 - Grace Paley
14 - Margaret Atwood
15 - Denis Johnson
16 - Robert Coover
17 - Lorrie Moore
18 - Don DeLillo
19 - J.D. Salinger
20 - Vladimir Nabokov
21 - John Cheever
22 - Cormac McCarthy
23 - Marilynne Robinson - *Housekeeping*
24 - James Baldwin
25 - Saul Bellow
26 - Ralph Ellison - *Invisible Man*
27 - Eudora Welty - *Collected Stories*
28 - William Gass - *In the Heart of the Heart of the Country*
29 - E.L. Doctorow - *Ragtime* or *The Book of Daniel*
30 - Louise Erdrich
31 - Joyce Carol Oates
32 - Peter Matthiessen - *Far Tortuga*
33 - John Barth
34 - John Hawkes
35 - Mavis Gallant
36 - Robert Stone
37 - Edward P. Jones
38 - David Foster Wallace
39 - Paul Auster
40 - Harold Brodkey

Although by no means in order of importance, this contemporary fiction list does become more arbitrary and provisional from about number 28 on; any well-read writer of fiction will have personal preferences that differ somewhat from this list. The student should choose about 20 from the list.

If you have questions, please contact Thisbe Nissen, Richard Katrovas, Jon Adams or Jaimy Gordon, all of whom contributed to the list; or Todd Kuchta, our graduate director.